

**101ST ABN DIV** - "It was here a minute ago," said Private First Class Michael Taylor of Crystal City, Mo., Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, speaking of his discovery of a .51 caliber machine gun emplacement.

Taylor's find was reminiscent of the old "now you see it, now you don't" trick, as he found the position, then lost it, then found it and finally destroyed it.

Taylor was walking point toward a landing zone (LZ) for resupply. "Once we neared the LZ some of us went up to secure it," said Taylor. "When we got there I walked around the edge of the LZ looking for boobytraps. As I walked past the northern side of the LZ I spotted a hole in the brush and saw something shiny inside the brush."

Not knowing whether the shining object was a boobytrap, Taylor sent word of the find back to Captain Ron Paramore of Fort Worth, Tex., company commander.

"When the captain came up to the LZ, I took him to the spot where I found the hole, but it was

gone. He thought I was seeing things," said the young pointman. "I assured him that I was seeing things and that it was really there. The thing was so well camouflaged that it took me a half hour to find it again."

Once the spot was found again, the "First Strike" trooper and the captain began to move the brush away.

"There were several sleeping positions and imprints in the ground from metal or wooden legs," continued Taylor. "Near these imprints were 159 live and expended .51 caliber machine gun cartridges. As I searched the area more I found one rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) cannister half-buried in the ground." A further search revealed six more RPG cannisters and empty food cans that enemy soldiers had buried.

After thoroughly checking the area for further enemy items, the .51 caliber rounds and RPG cannisters were sent to Firebase Tomahawk and the position was destroyed.

**It's here**

**It's there**

**It's gone**



**FIRST IN VIETNAM**

# the OBSERVER

Vol. 9, No. 43

Saigon, Vietnam

February 26, 1971

## Spotter; owl's job

**7TH AF** -- Air Force Sergeant Dearel J. Friend, of Selma, Calif., works like an owl at night, eyes wide open, sitting on his 165-foot-high concrete perch at Tan Son Nhut AB.

All night he peers out into the darkness over this huge air base watching for something he doesn't want to see - the brief flash of incoming rocket fire.

"What I'm looking for is a long shaft of light, with a yellow-white tint and sparks coming off it," he says, "It only lasts for a fraction of a second."

Friend is assigned permanent night duty as a rocket spotter with the 377th Security Police Squadron. Although Tan Son Nhut AB hasn't been struck by communist rocket fire in more than a year, he's seen two rockets that struck Bien Hoa AB, 15 miles northeast of here.

When he spots a launch, Friend reacts by notifying a man on duty at Central Security Control, who in turn sets off the base alarm system. Although it only takes a rocket eight to 12 seconds from time of launch to time of impact, even this can be enough time to "hit the deck."

Friend will then zero in on the launch site with a spotting scope. With his report and those from two more towers, the exact launch site can be determined. Air and artillery strikes are then called in if they are needed.

Besides his duty as a rocket spotter, Friend also relays communications and uses his binoculars to act as a powerful second pair of eyes for the security police.

The sergeant says he enjoys the cool night air, but adds that, "When the wind gusts to 30 miles-per-hour and the rain starts, it really isn't all that comfortable."

"Heights used to bother me," he admits, "but that was before I started working towers, and that was a year and a half ago."

## Soft runway

**7TH AF** -- The first U.S. Air Force fixed wing aircraft to land in Khe Sanh in nearly three years touched down recently carrying an 834th Air Division combat control team to guide in landings of more Air Force aircraft.

The big C-130 Hercules settled on the semi-soft runway piloted by Major J.B. Burris of San Bernardino, Calif., of the 50th TAS.

Burris described the landing as, "pretty soft, almost like landing with flat tires."

The all-dirt runway had been completed minutes before the "bird" touched down. Trucks, used to harden the surface, had barely switched off their motors, and eager faces anxiously peered from the cabs as the plane landed.

The dirt runway is only a temporary affair that is being used until the main runway can be repaired. It's pierced steel planking surface had deteriorated since U.S. Marines withdrew in April, 1968.

The dirt runway was built by Army Engineers in less than a week and plans call for it to be used as an alternate landing strip when the original one is completely restored.



**HE WATCHES AND WAITS** -- With the lights of Tan Son Nhut AB under him and with the aid of a full moon, Air Force Sergeant Dearel Friend of Selma, Calif., adjusts a spotting scope on his 165-foot high perch. Friend, a security policeman, spends his nights on the huge water tower here watching for enemy rocket launches. (USAF PHOTO By: A1C Jack Cavner)

## INSIDE this week . . .

RICE CATCHES	2
BRUS MAKE NEW LIFE	3
AVAILABLE AND CHEAP	4
VIEWING VIETNAM	5
DEWEY CANYON	6&7
MISS BLACK AMERICA	8
DENTAL CARE	9
BOXING MATCH	10
COMING MOVIES	11

**GI**  
*drin*

Specialist 4 Gregory Miller of Sarasota, Fla., assigned to the 11th Inf Bde's 3rd Bn, 1st Inf, had remained a carefree bachelor for 21 years. However the Army decided that if he was going home, he should have a wife to meet him. Miller's DROS orders lists as his next of kin a wife named Linda and states she is living in his old apartment. Unfortunately, Miller's earlier request for an extension had just been approved, but he indicated he may apply for a compassionate leave. "It would be interesting to see what my Army issued wife looks like," he said. "I just hope that she isn't O.D. Green."

# VNAF packs punch

7 AF - The Republic of Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) added another solid punch to its ever growing strength with the formal activation of a new helicopter squadron at DaNang recently.

Designated the 23rd Helicopter Squadron, the new unit, when fully operational, will have the mission of supporting the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) ground operations in Military Region 1 with its fleet of UH-1 Hueys.

The ceremony was informal but the significance of the event was highly important as the activation of the new unit pushed the VNAF air strength up to 32 squadrons of a projected strength of 50 squadrons under the Improvement and Modernization Program.

The 233rd Helo Sq. became the tenth VNAF squadron to be activated in the past five months. Resources for the new squadron were turned over by the U. S. Army.

Huey helicopters have long been flown by the VNAF and by building the new unit around a select group of veteran pilots from the 213th Helo Sq., also based here, some with thousands of hours of combat experience, the new squadron is expected to be operationally ready in the very near future.

"We're moving fast, but very deliberately," Brig. Gen. Kendall S. Young, commander of the Air Force Advisory Group at Tan Son Nhut Air base, said of the I&M program. The general's advisory Team 1 has the responsibility of advising the VNAF at this installation.

"The rapid influx of aircraft into the VNAF inventory has caused some minor problems, but nothing that we didn't anticipate," the general said. "I think we and the VNAF are coping with them very well. For every additional aircraft there has to be additional trained maintenance and supply personnel, along with the realignment of the logistics system. We're solving most of the problems even before they arise. But, after activating nine other units in such a short period of time, we have much experience in this sort of thing."

General Young indicated there would be even more squadron activations in the near future, including a unit of C-123 Provider transports.

Following the ceremonies here this morning, Col. Maurice D. Surratt, chief of Advisory Team 1, commented that the growth of "the VNAF here has been phenomenal by any standards. When I arrived July, 1970, the VNAF had only a wing at Da Nang Airfield.

"The 1st Air Division was activated on Sept. 1, and another squadron of A-37 Dragonfly jet fighters was activated on Dec. 1," the colonel stated. "Now, with the activation of another helicopter squadron the Division has six assigned tactical squadrons, two tactical wings and scores of support units. And more growth is still in store."

The select group of experienced pilots from the 213th Helo Sq. provided the nucleus for the new squadron while other VNAF pilots were drawn from flight training schools both in the United States and the Republic of Vietnam.

Maj. Rich Wyatt, U.S. advisor to the new squadron, said, "The seasoned pilots transferred to the 23rd are among the best helicopter pilots in the world. Several have more than 4,000 hours flying time, most of which is combat time.

"The new squadron, when fully operational," the major said, "will undoubtedly be the same type of crack outfit as the 213th." The 213th Helo Sq. was a recent recipient of the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation.

## The changing face of the air war

### PART ONE

VFS -- With the dawning of a new decade a fresh page is being written in the checkered history of the Soc Trang airfield, this time by the Vietnamese Air Force. While Soc Trang may not be as familiar to air travelers as Orly or Heathrow or Kennedy, it is an airfield of considerable significance to the Republic of Vietnam and to all with a vested interest in the success of the "Vietnamization" program now underway in the republic.

Deep in the Mekong Delta in Ba Xuyen province, 130 kilometers southwest of Saigon, Soc Trang had a nonepochal beginning. It was built of gravel and clay in 1935 as a landing strip for French planes ferrying spectators to a horse-racing track nearby. The Japanese used it during World War II, building a concrete runway and metal hangars for their warplanes shuttling to the Philippines and intercepting American bombers. After the armistice the French flag flew over Soc Trang until 1954, when President Ngo Dinh Diem began basing his fighter-bombers there in a campaign to crush feudal banditry and warlordism. Diem turned over the field in 1959 to the VNAF, the Vietnamese Air Force, then four years old. A tiny outpost of a fledgling corps, Soc Trang was commanded by a heroic young lieutenant who died in a Ca Mau battle three years later. In 1962, as the Viet Cong began tightening their grip on the country's richest ricebowl, American helicopters clattered in to take over the field and relieve its ill-equipped garrison. As the war against the communists escalated, Soc Trang grew to become the largest U.S. Army helicopter base in the Delta -- an aviation battalion headquarters and home base for two assault companies plus medical evacuation choppers and extensive maintenance facilities. On November 4, 1970, the entire complex was turned back to a VNAF which in the meantime had come of age. Veteran U.S. crews withdrew from Soc Trang as their companies were deactivated. The VNAF activated two new helicopter squadrons and Vietnamese pilots took over the controls of 62 more UH-1 "Huey" copters.

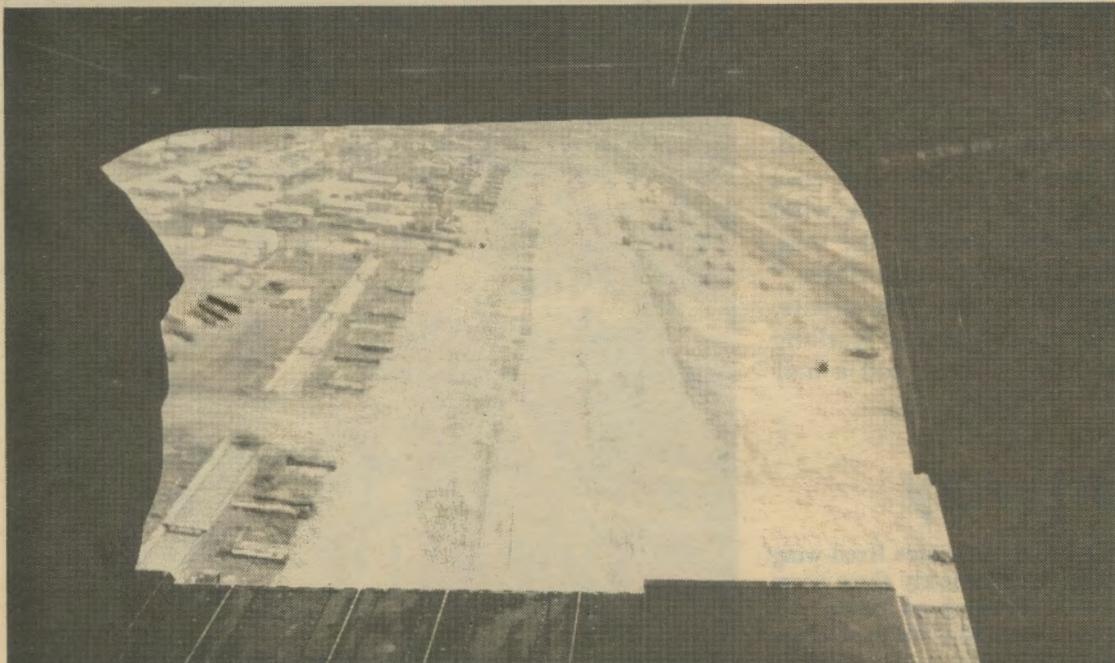
One more major step in the accelerating Vietnamization program, the transfer of Soc Trang's command and assets means that defense of the Delta's 18 provinces has become almost exclusively a Vietnamese responsibility. The last U.S. Army infantry division, the Ninth, has long since left the Delta, turning over the ground war in all of Military Region IV to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam: the ARVN's Seventh, Ninth and 21st Infantry Divisions and its territorial companies and platoons. The Vietnamese Navy is now in full command of the "brown water fleet" patrolling the Delta's 8,000 kilometers of navigable rivers and canals. The VNAF since last summer has been in operational control of the Military Region IV Direct Air Support Center (DASC) in Can Tho, which directs all air strikes in the Delta. With Soc Trang's turnover supplementing the helicopter and fighter-bomber capability of the VNAF's other big Delta base at Binh Thuy, 12 kilometers from Can Tho, the Vietnamese now hold prime responsibility for the security of the nation's most populated region, where seven million citizens live on 37,000 square kilometers of watery flatlands.

What American presence remains in the Delta today is spread very thin. There are U. S. Army advisors with ARVN divisions and territorial units, but their functions in the field now are primarily concerned with communications; the advisors provide the link between Vietnamese commanders and the U.S. artillery and air support they can call on. A U.S. Army Aviation Battalion has headquarters at Can Tho, so American pilots still make combat strikes and support ARVN troop insertions in the Delta, but their missions are controlled and directed by bilingual Vietnamese DASC personnel. There are U.S. Air Force advisors at VNAF bases, but more and more their advice is on matters of training, maintenance and logistics instead of basic aviation, administration and air-war tactics. There are U.S. Navy advisors in the brown water fleet -- one enlisted man to each patrol boat or Swift craft turned over to the Vietnamese Navy -- but these advisors serve under Vietnamese skippers. Command, hence responsibility today is mainly Vietnamese at facilities run by all military services throughout the Delta.

While the other Military Regions (MR I, II and III to the north) have not yet achieved the high degree of Vietnamese command evident in MR IV, each month they are moving closer to the ultimate objective -- making the RVNAF, the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, capable of assuming full combat authority.

With the VNAF, new functions are being acquired steadily as its operations become more effective, with Vietnamese taking over such jobs as control tower operation and weather forecasting along with combat roles. In October 1970, Forward Air Controllers of the VNAF took over complete responsibility for directing air strikes in Quang Ngai province of MR I; based at Da Nang, the 110th VNAF Liaison Squadron now coordinates the activities of Vietnamese and U.S. ground forces and fighter-bomber pilots. As the program progresses, Forward Air Controllers of the VNAF will assume control in the rest of MR I.

Other branches of the military report similar transfers of authority. With the overall Vietnamization program ahead of schedule in all services, American fighting men are being redeployed to their home bases at a steady rate. From a high of 549,500 men, U.S. forces in Vietnam by December 1970 had been reduced to 335,800 and are slated to total no more than 284,000 by May 1971. Airmen of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) in Vietnam totaled 43,100 at year's end, compared with 61,200 at their peak in May 1969.



FLYING HIGH -- An aerial view of Soc Trang Airfield. (VFS PHOTO)

## Luc Luong rice catchers

23RD INF DIV (AMERICAL) - Poles, bags and shovels are playing an important part in feeding Vietnamese and denying the enemy food in southern Quang Ngai Province.

Infantrymen and Luc Luong 66 Scouts (formerly known as Kit Carson Scouts) from the 11th Brigade's 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry have poked through hundreds of haystacks and hooches, bagging over 217,000 pounds of rice since May.

"One squad uses heavy poles to check out the ground and probe the hedgerows and hooches while another bags and extracts rice," said First Lieutenant John P. Iappini, Company B commander.

Most of the rice is found in half-buried 55 gallon drums, and in more conspicuous containers with nearly 20 inches of dried potatoes on top, Iappini said.

"With an estimated 2,000 tons harvested each year, the VC have been doing their best to take their share from the people, but their market operation is being stopped," explained Major Richard F. Wright, battalion operations officer.

The VC will sometimes even pay about 4,000 piastres, or about \$16 for a 50-pound sack of polished rice," Wright noted. "Fortunately, our denial operation has succeeded in almost completely eliminating this illegal traffic."

While the VC have been forced to resort to their

meager resources in the mountains, Wright said that further searching has yielded thousands of pounds of rice from the Spring harvest. "In the past five months," he continued, "almost 50 tons of rice have been reclaimed in the name of the people living in Duc Pho District.

In April and May alone, the battalion tallied more than 50 tons of polished and unpolished rice.

Rice redistribution efforts are coordinated with MACV and the Duc Pho district chief. "When word of diminishing food supplies in the hamlets near our firebase reaches the district chief, he contacts us and we pull the necessary amount of rice from our warehouse and truck it out to them," explained First Lieutenant Jerry Webster of the 4/21 S-5 office.

One cache recently yielded over 5,000 pounds of unpolished rice--enough to feed 1,000 needy people for a week, according to Webster.

The present rice harvest is in full swing; sharp-eyed soldiers are using their poles and listening for the familiar hollow sounds of a buried rice cache. And the people are waiting for their hard-earned rice to be returned.

# Huck Finn lives at Crescent Beach

1ST MAW - Like Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, all youngsters enjoy taking to the water in a raft. Just ask the young residents of Crescent Beach Orphanage, located on the western shore of Da Nang Bay. Thanks to the efforts of Marine Corps and Naval personnel they are now the happy owners of their own raft.

The idea for the raft originated with First Lieutenant John R. Gough of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) G-4 Engineer section. But, before the first youngster at Crescent Beach climbed aboard the raft, about 50 Marine Corps and Naval personnel had lent a hand in constructing or delivering it.

Lieutenant Gough, Lance Corporal Roger D. Riley and Master Sergeant Robert L. Alexander, all of G-4 Engineer section, spent about three days of their spare time in constructing the raft which was made of 156 styrofoam containers held together by a wooden frame.

The raft was then turned over to Captain Howard Funk, the 1st MAW Postal Officer, who directed the delivery operations.

Delivery began with 45 minutes of maneuvering by two fork lifts which were finally able to lift the raft and place it upon a flat bed truck.

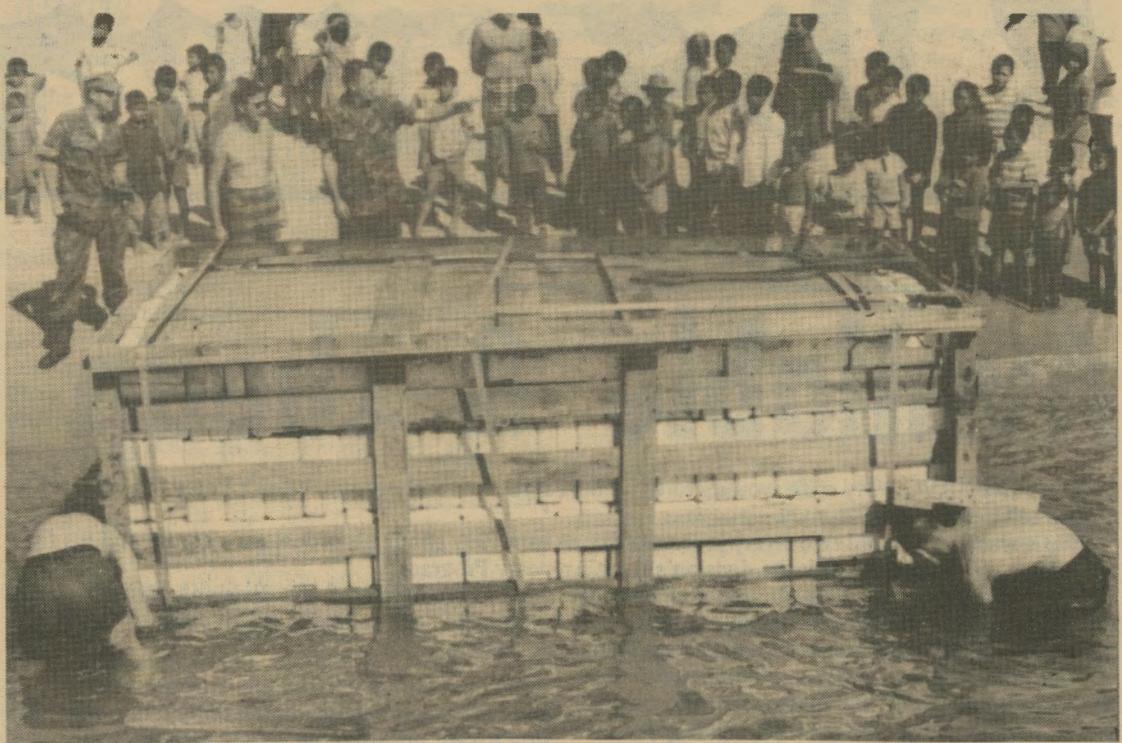
The raft was then transported to the Deep Water Harbor at

Tien Sha where a Navy "Pusher Boat" awaited to take it across the bay to Crescent Beach. With the help of a crane and Navy muscle the raft was put aboard the deck of the converted landing craft and the 45-minute trip across the bay began.

As the boat neared the orphanage the young boys and girls began to gather on the shore. They had seen the long gray craft before as Marines and Sailors often make trips to the orphanage to visit the youngsters.

As the kids watched from the shore the Marines and Sailors shoved the raft into the water. She floated, but was upside down. A couple of ropes were fastened to the raft, and the youngsters and men pulling together soon had it righted.

The job completed, the Marines and Sailors said good-bye to the kids and began their return trip across the bay. On the shore, the youngsters watched, wondering what new adventures their raft would bring.



**SHE'S AFLOAT... BUT UPSIDE DOWN** -- As the children from Crescent Beach Orphanage watch, Marines and sailors prepare to right an overturned raft. The raft was a gift from the men to the orphans.

(USMC PHOTO By Sgt. D.L. Blake)

## Driven from their mountain homes Hardworking Bru build a new life

XXIV CORPS - It has rained for a long time - a slow and chilling rain falling from the iron-colored clouds that daily shroud the mountains during monsoon season. But this hasn't stopped them.

Their feet - bare and callous - plod the muddy paths to the mountains. On their backs are handmade baskets, empty now. And their deep-bronze faces - creased and drawn and wrinkled - reflect hard times.

The people are the Bru of Quang Tri Province -- Montagnards -- hunters and farmers by tradition, refugees by circumstance. They were driven from their homes near Khe Sanh three years ago by a war completely alien to them - a war in which the issues are abstractions to a simple tribal society. Once a relatively prosperous people, the Bru now live in poverty.

The tribe was resettled in the Cua Valley. A community of nine villages was created. It's called "Bruville." And one of their number is an adopted son, if you will - Lieutenant Stephen Visher. Assigned to the 29th Civil Affairs Company, a XXIV Corps unit, Visher - whose tall, lanky frame towers above the diminutive people - has been working with the Bru for 17 months.

His thing is agriculture; his mission difficult. He talked about it.

"The whole purpose of our being here is to help the people help themselves," Visher said. "It's working out, but the road hasn't been an easy one."

With the help of the Son Ton cadre, a group within the community interested in village development, and two Vietnamese soldiers - an interpreter and an agricultural advisor - Visher tackled a myriad of problems.

"Here we're dealing with people whose whole tradition and language are different from the ethnic Vietnamese. In many ways they're like strangers in their own country. They are

basically an isolated people, cut off from all around them. Then came the war.

"To the Bru, the war is foreign. They know that it has uprooted them from their homes. They cling to the hope that they soon will be able to return to the mountains in peace.

"When are we going home?" is the question most frequently asked of me," Visher said. "It's not an easy one to answer."

The 24-year-old Falls Church, Va., native has explained to the people that they should not get their hopes too high...that they are likely to remain in the Cua Valley for some time...that they should try to make the best of their lives there.

This has not been made any easier by the enemy, either. Lt. Visher explained:

"When the women go up to the mountains to gather wood for charcoal (the Bru's main "industry"), they sometimes encounter enemy troops. The soldiers make threats and the women carry the word back to the villages. This, of course, shakes the people up."

Even the sight of American soldiers - on routine patrols through the area - alarms the people. A group of Bru recently was on its way to the mountains as a patrol from the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) approached. The people came running after Visher, fearful that the GIs wouldn't let them pass.

"We constantly try to reassure the Bru that no harm will come to them at the hands of

villages are closely grouped.

Two whopping problems still exist, however:

- Seeds are not readily available.

- Crops are not readily marketable.

"Under the current setup, the people have to go to Dong Ha or Quang Tri City for seeds," Lt. Visher said.

"And since the only mode of transportation the people have is their legs, they're at a disadvantage. For this reason, we try to place emphasis on crops that produce their own seed."

"As far as markets are concerned, there are a few small ones in the surrounding villages, but the closest major markets are in Cam Lo and Dong Ha. And they're both quite a walk."

Help is beginning to arrive, though.

"The Bru just received three tractors," Visher said. "And they have been paid for with Village Self-Development money - the people's money. That's the important part."

The lieutenant explained that a group of villagers would be selected to learn how to operate and maintain the tractors, and that they would cultivate everyone's crops.

"The people are very excited about the tractors," Visher said with a smile. "It seems that everyone wants to learn how to operate them. Something like a status symbol, I suppose."

Visher hopes that the Bru will vote to purchase rear carts for the tractors.

"The potential of those little fixtures is tremendous," he said. "The people can haul their vegetables to market, sell them, pick up what they need and ride

back - all in one day.

"This will give them a valuable link with the so-called 'outside' and put them on the road to self-sufficiency."

Herein lies the key to Visher's work and the work of civil affairs: the people helping themselves.

"We're now in a state of transition," Visher mused. "It was pretty much a give-away program when I arrived here, but the people have come a long way. This is not to say they've made it. Not at all. But you can see the changes - you can feel them too."

A shovel slung over his shoulder and his ever-present pipe clenched in his teeth, Visher and the Son Ton cadre stroll through the "main drag" of Bruville, headed for a demonstration garden. Visher greets the people along the way with a smile. They return it.

Behind Visher is a string of children, following him as if he were the Pied Piper. "They're a great help," the lieutenant said, nodding at the kids. "You don't have to ask them to do anything. They simply watch what we do and do it themselves."

"And they do a fine job too - helping lay the lime, planting things: everything."

Asked how the children are rewarded for their assistance, a broad grin swept Visher's face.

"They love cigarettes."

WHEN WAS  
YOUR LAST  
PERSONAL  
AFFAIRS  
CHECK-UP?



# Observations

## Fight to overcome the drug

## Available & cheap

23RD INF DIV - "My wife would really be hurt if she knew about me. I don't know if I will ever be able to tell her."

That's what a PFC told two Army journalists in an interview about his ordeal with heroin and his fight to overcome the drug through the division's Drug Amnesty Program.

In an effort to curb drug abusers and promote the success of the division's Drug Amnesty Program, the PFC, who will remain anonymous, submitted to "tell it like it is" to warn others of the consequences of being "hooked" and the agony of Cold Turkey.

"Heroin is easy to get in Nam," says the soldier. You can get it from the mama-sans, the hootch maids, or you can go to the street and buy it from the school kids.

"The availability of drugs here in Nam definitely causes people to turn on. And it's so cheap; even if you're on PFC pay, you can still get by and sometimes you can even come out ahead by selling it."

The PFC admits that boredom in a rear area job and the lag-time between things to do to keep occupied, is one of the primary reasons for turning to drugs. "Out in the bush, you're so scared all the time, you just don't care. But back here in the rear, there's so much lag-time in your work that it's so easy to say, 'Oh, what the hell, stock it up.' He says that "back in the world" if he were offered some heroin, "I'd jump back about 10 feet and say, 'get away from me'."

The former addict says that a couple friends started him "snorting" heroin and that he was taking between a cap and a cap and a half a day at four dollars per cap, which would have cost him about forty or fifty dollars per cap in the U.S. "I was getting strung out and it didn't seem to make much sense to quit at the time. There just wasn't any reason to stop and I really didn't want to stop. I was hooked."

Fortunately, 21 days before he was to leave for Hawaii on R&R to meet his wife, the PFC decided there was more to live for than a daily "fix". "I ran out of heroin one night and I was off for 24 hours. I thought if I was off for that long, I might as well go all the way, so I asked if I could sleep it off in the ward of the 23rd Medical battalion, where I was admitted under the Amnesty Program."

He had made the decision and now faced the toughest part of his journey to overcome heroin, Cold Turkey.

"I wasn't sure I could make it when I first came to the program, but you see, everyone has to make up his own mind. You have to come to some position within yourself. You either have to do it or don't, and the only way to do it is Cold Turkey."

"The hardest part of going on the ward is the first 36 hours. I couldn't stay still and had to keep moving around. I got stomach cramps, the back of my legs ached and I began to perspire heavily."

For almost two days he suffered the indescribable pain of resisting a drug which could have eventually led to his death.

"The way I feel now," says the rehabilitated PFC, "If someone asked me if I wanted a hit, I know I would have enough guts to say no. If I did accept, the whole thing would be a complete waste. It just wouldn't make sense to go through Cold Turkey and then go back and shoot it up."

If a person abusing drugs turns himself in to the proper authorities before he gets "busted" and has no drugs on his person at the time, he will receive treatment for his problem without punishment and no permanent record will be kept to follow him through civilian life. The proper authorities to contact would be a chaplain, the provost marshal or a doctor.

"I can say that this program is working. I've seen people come off the wards unhooked, and I know I could do the same," says the soldier. "I

don't feel any desire for the drug now and I don't have to worry about them telling my wife if I don't want her to know."

"The Amnesty Program is a good idea and I think if they keep pushing it that it will work for even a greater percentage of GI's. Sure, you can throw a guy in jail for drugs, but he'll either go completely insane or become unresponsive to the treatment. If you show someone that you are trying to help him with his problem, he'll appreciate it."

This is one man's success story in his battle with drugs. But it isn't over; he still has a few months left in Vietnam and heroin is still readily available and cheap to buy.

## UP COUNTRY. (WITH THE "RED DEVILS")



**MULDOON!** HAVE YOU BEEN WASHING YOUR SOCKS IN THE COFFEEPOD AGAIN??

## Go to commander first

23RD INF DIV - "I'm going to see the IG!"

You've probably heard this declaration more than once in your Army career. But what does this statement mean to you? What is an IG? What role does he play in your life and in the U.S. Army? Should you take your problems to the IG, or to your commanding officer?

The role of the IG, stated today is: "To inquire into and report upon the matters which pertain to the performance of mission and state of discipline, efficiency, and economy of the command, installation, or activity in which they serve."

In deciding which problems should be presented to the IG, and which to your commanding officer, consider the following facts:

1. Each member of the U.S. Army has a right to register complaints orally or in writing with the Inspector General.
2. Service personnel are encouraged to discuss their problems with their unit commander.
3. Any person who, under the guise of presenting a legitimate complaint to an inspector general makes a statement which is proved to be knowingly untruthful, will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Any type of disciplinary action against an individual for registration of a complaint, except as provided above, is prohibited.
5. Anonymous complaints will be processed in the same manner as any other type, except that no acknowledgement is possible.
6. In addition to receiving complaints, inspector generals

are available for assisting in the resolution of personal problems which may confront service personnel. Actions of this type are termed "requests for assistance" and should not be confused with complaints.

With these facts established, to whom should you present your problem or complaint?

Your first stop is your commanding officer. He, like every commander of every unit in the U.S. Army, is vitally concerned, knowing that his unit's mission can only be accomplished through dedicated and devoted service of every individual in the unit.

If your complaint, request for assistance, or grievance is of such a nature that it can be corrected by your commander, then present it to him first and give him the chance to clear it up.

If, after presenting your problem to your commander, you do not consider his action to be adequate or the problem is of such a nature that he cannot resolve it, then contact your acting IG or Division IG for assistance.

At present there is a problem vital to the interests of every member of the U.S. Army in Vietnam. A portion of the personnel serving here are not taking advantage of the command and IG channels and are presenting their grievances directly to members of Congress or to the President. Actions of this nature result in a serious drain on the United States.

Under the democratic system of government you have the undeniable right and privilege to communicate directly with any member of our government. However, you will find that your problem can normally be solved more quickly and easily if presented to your commander and to your local IG, if you are not satisfied with the actions of your unit commander.

The unit commander holds an open door session in which you may go and present your problems to him. Avail yourself of this opportunity if you have a problem.

The IG notes that most of their complaints come in when there is either more work having to be done, or a change of command.

In a combat situation, if the unit is short of men, more work will have to be put on the individual soldier, nothing can be done about it until replacements come in.

When there is a change of command and the new CO changes all the policies, and you don't like them, if he is within the law, he is doing what his position warrants. If you don't like the new policies, check to see if they are within regulation before going to the IG.

Help yourself, help the Army, and help your country by consulting your commanding officer first and then, if necessary the Inspector General.

## SITUATIONS

"SITUATIONS" continues this week with another episode on how an American can appreciate the Vietnamese point of view in a given instance. So read along, and try to put yourself in the other guy's shoes...

### DO BE PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE VIETNAMESE TARDINESS

Reason: Tardiness by American standards may be perfectly acceptable for the Vietnamese who utilize an entirely different concept of time. They do not normally compute time in a straight-line manner as do the Americans. Their religiously influenced calendar year cycle repeats itself every twelve years, in contrast to our idea that once time and its opportunities have passed they are beyond recovery. Consequently, the pressure to get things done quickly is not felt as acutely by most Vietnamese as by Americans.

# the OBSERVER

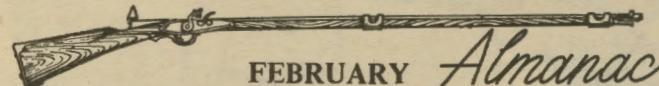


COMUSMACV . . . . . Gen. C.W. Abrams, USA  
 Information Officer . . . . . Col. R.W. Leonard, USA  
 Chief, Command Information . . . . . LTC. A.J. Nealon, USA

\* \* \* \* \*

OIC . . . . . Capt. C.F. Burke, USA  
 Editor . . . . . Sp4 R.M. Volkmer, USA  
 Asst. Editor . . . . . Sp4 K.M. Moriarty, USA  
 Asst. Editor . . . . . SP4 E.J. Cielesz, USA  
 Staff Writer . . . . . SP4 C.E. Menich, USA  
 Distribution . . . . . SP4 J.P. Harris, USA  
 Sports Contributor . . . . . Sp5 L.H. Green, USA  
 Composing . . . . . SSGt E.G. Harper, USA

The OBSERVER is an authorized newspaper published weekly by the Command Information Division, Office of Information, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for United States Forces in Vietnam. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of the Department of Defense or any of the Armed Forces. The OBSERVER, printed offset at Pacific Stars and Stripes in Tokyo, uses material from the American Forces Press Service and other Department of Defense agencies. Direct mail to: Editor, The OBSERVER, HQ MACV, (MACOI-C), APO 96222. The OBSERVER has a circulation of 60,000.



## FEBRUARY Almanac

Feb. 2 - Dateline 1901-The Army Nurse Corps was established, marking the first time women nurses were officially recognized as part of the War Department.

Feb. 3 - Dateline 1943-Four Army chaplains-two Protestants, one Catholic and one Jewish-drowned after giving their life preservers so others might be saved from a torpedoed troop ship.

Feb. 12 - Dateline 1809-Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, was born.

Feb. 22 - Dateline 1732-George Washington-surveyor, soldier, patriot, statesman and "Father of our Country"-was born at Wakefield, Va.

Feb. 23 - Dateline 1778-Baron Von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge, Pa., to train the Continental Army.

Feb. 26 - Dateline 1846-William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who served as a scout with the 9th Kansas Cavalry Regiment, was born.

## Bond Interest Increase Spelled Out

Yield on Series E and H Bonds has been increased to five and one-half per cent, retroactive to June 1, 1970. The change has prompted some recent questions:

Q. How is interest paid on these Bonds?

A. Series E Bonds are accrual-type securities, sold at 75 per cent of face value. E Bonds now mature in 5 years, 10 months; older E Bonds had various original maturity lengths ranging from 7 to 10 years. Series H Bonds are current-income securities, sold at par (face) value. Interest is paid by semiannual checks issued by the Treasury. H Bonds mature in 10 years.

Q. What is the new higher interest rate?

A. Series E Bonds now on sale return 5½ per cent interest compounded semiannually, when held to maturity of 5 years, 10 months. They earn 4.01 per cent the first year; thereafter interest increases on a graduated scale; at maturity, they receive a ½-per cent bonus, raising the yield to 5½ per cent from issue date to maturity.

Series H Bonds now on sale also return 5½ per cent when held to maturity of 10 years. They earn 4.49 per cent the first year, 5.30 per cent for the next 4 years, and 6.00 per cent during the second 5 years; raising the rate to an average of 5½ per cent for the 10-year period.

Q. What about my older E and H Bonds? Will they also pay more, or should I cash them in and buy new Bonds?

A. Older E and H Bonds also have had their yields improved, so there would be no advantage in redeeming your present holdings to buy new Bonds. Here's how older Bonds are affected by the higher rate-

### SERIES E BONDS

Outstanding Bonds that have not reached their first maturity, will receive a ½ per cent increase in yield for semi-annual interest periods beginning on or after June 1, 1970, payable as a bonus at maturity.

Outstanding Bonds that have reached first maturity—or are extended beyond first maturity while the bonus is in effect—will have the ½ per cent credited at the end of each semi-annual interest period beginning on or after June 1, 1970, through their next maturity. The bonus is payable whenever the Bonds are redeemed.

### SERIES H BONDS

Outstanding Bonds that have been held for less than 5 years will receive a ½ per cent increase in yield for semiannual interest periods beginning on or after June 1, 1970, payable as a bonus in the form of increased semiannual interest payments during the second 5 years to maturity.

Bonds that have been held 5 years, or are extended while the bonus is in effect, will receive a ½ per cent increase in yield for semiannual interest periods beginning on or after June 1, 1970. The bonus will be added to semiannual interest checks through next maturity.

(AFPS)

## viewing vietnam



Each week, "Viewing Vietnam" explores a different facet of the Vietnamese people their customs and their society. We have recently been studying the various religions of the country; this week's topics are Hoa Hao and Cao Daiism.

The Third Revelation was given by God to the Cao Dai founder Ngo Van Chieu on Phu Quoc Island in 1919. The name Cao Dai means the high, tower-shaped throne of the Supreme Emperor (God).

The major doctrines of the Cao Dai are:

\* That Cao Daism is the Third Revelation of divinity to all men and supersedes or corrects previous teachings.

\* Cao Daism worships the Absolute Supreme God who is eternal without beginning or end, who is the Creator of all, Supreme Father of all, and unique Master who created and creates all angels, buddhas and saints.

\* Cao Daists believe in the existence of three distinct categories of invisible beings:

The highest deities composed of buddhas, saints, and angels; the medium beings which include sanctified spirits; the lower beings which include both phantoms and devils.

This belief includes the concept that all three orders must pass through human existence in order to help humanity and normally move from the lowest toward the higher forms. Of all living creatures, only man can become a devil or an angel because he has a special soul!

\* Cao Daists believe that the human soul may go up or down the ladder of existence, and that man by his will and actions determines the direction.

\* The ultimate goal of Cao Daism is the deliverance of man from the endless cycle of existence. Man possesses an immortal soul which must obtain release from the cycle for complete victory.

\* The worship of ancestors is a means of communication between the visible and invisible worlds, between the living and the dead, and is a means of expressing love and gratitude to ancestors.

\* Cao Dai ethical concepts teach equality and brotherhood of all races, the love of justice, the Buddhist law of Karma, Buddha's Five Commandments and Eightfold Path, and the Confucian Doctrine of the Mean.

\* Cao Daism recognizes a pantheon of saints and deities which include Joan of Arc, Sun Yat Sen and Victor Hugo.

\* Last, but not least, Cao Daists believe that divinity speaks to man through spiritual mediums using the corbeille a bec.

When this beaked bag is held by two members of the Legislative Body of the Cao Dai over a board which holds the alphabet, the divinity causes his spirit to move the bag to spell out the divine communication. Such messages must be revealed at the Tay Ninh Temple.

There are several sects of Cao Daists with centers throughout Vietnam but the center of the faith is at Tay Ninh City in the Tay Ninh Temple.

## FICA takes Bigger bite

Along with a pay raise and increased commuted ration rates in January was a boost in the amount of money taken from servicemen's paychecks for Social Security.

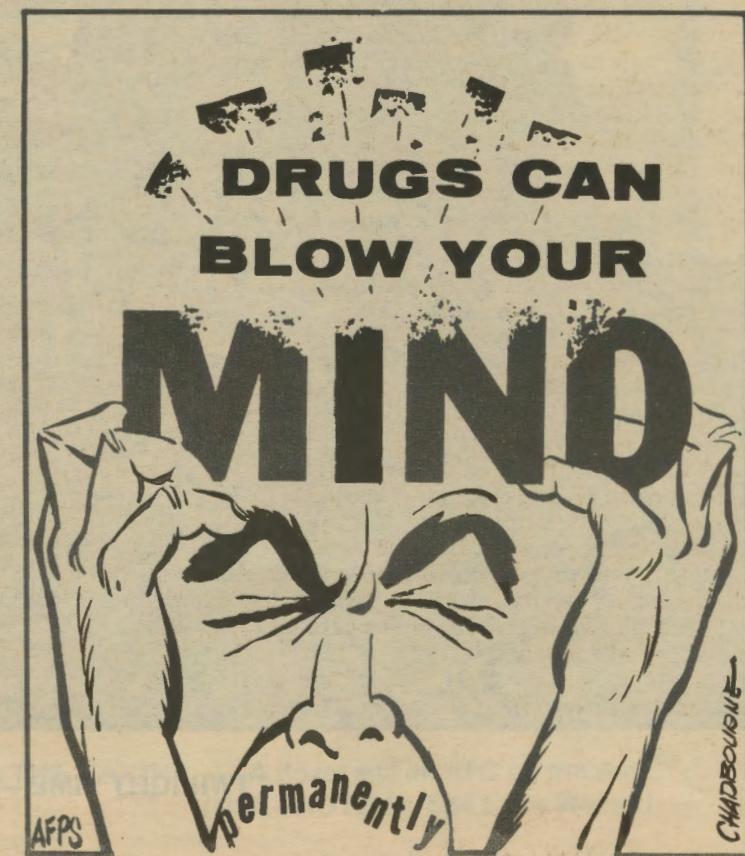
Starting Jan. 1, the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) rate went to 5.2 per cent, with a maximum annual contribution set at \$405.60.

The FICA increased amounts to \$2.40 a month for those paying the maximum \$7,800 payroll tax. For those earning \$5,000 a year, the tax increase amounts to about \$1.50.

The FICA tax includes contributions for Social Security and Medicare.

Military personnel came under Social Security coverage in January 1957. The tax is computed only on base pay.

(AFPS)





STR  
of the

## With on D



**TWILIGHT TIME** — A 'Sheridan' of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry.  
(USA PHOTO By Sp4 Paul Wyrick)



CHOW TIM



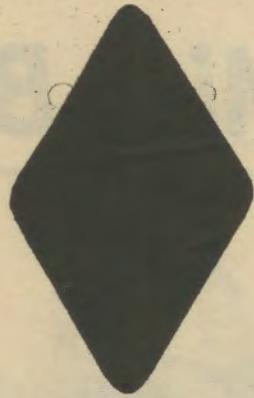
IT ALSO STATES THAT GREAT CARE SHOULD BE  
TAKEN BY THE INDIVIDUAL IN OUR AREA OF OPERATION TO  
AVOID SEVERE SUNBURN AND HEAT STROKE..ESPECIALLY  
DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE!!

ALWAYS MUD --- Emplacing a culvert.  
(USA PHOTO By Sp4 Steve Warner)

--- Engineers replace sections  
of a road strip at Ham Nghi.  
(USA PHOTO By Sp4 Paul Wyrick)



# the 5th Mech at the Dewey Canyon II



TOWARD THE RAVINE --- A dozer and an APC on the way.  
(USA PHOTO By Sp4 Steve Warner)

ations and canned goods...field cuisine.  
(USA PHOTO By Sp4 Larry Mitzner)



Miss Black North Carolina does her share to entertain.



"Psychedelic Frankie and the Rock Theatre" were also part of the show.

## Miss Black America, there it is



Miss Black Utah strikes out on her own.



Admirers welcome Miss Black America.



A group to sing to no matter where she turned.

**101ST ABN DIV** — Everyone's expectations of what Miss Black America should be were fulfilled when the reigning Miss Stephanie Clark paid a visit to the men of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) with a talented entourage of rock musicians and black beauty queens of three states.

Although rain gear was necessary to ward off the damp chill of a Vietnamese monsoon-season rain, approximately 4,500 attended the show at the 101st's Camp Eagle headquarters near Hue.

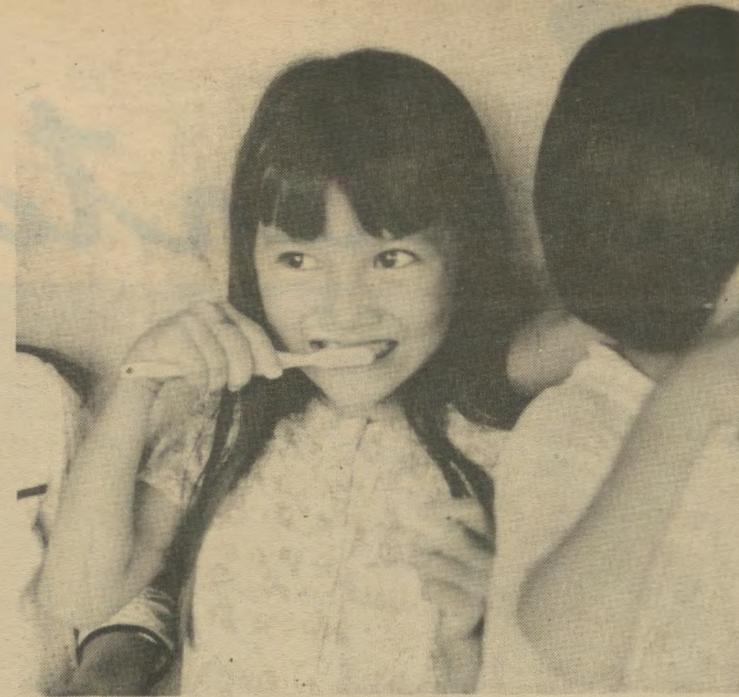
On stage at the basecamp's Eagle Bowl were the "Royal Court" comprised of Miss Black Alabama, Brenda Duff; Miss Black North Carolina, Sylvia Smith and Miss Black Utah, Inas Slade, along with Salt Lake City television personality Lou Ashley. Their songs were backed up by the guitars and drums of "Psychedelic Frankie and the Rock Theatre," made up of Frankie Snowden, lead guitar, William Brock, fender bass, and Heskel Hinton, drums.

Scores of camera-toting members of the division snapped souvenir photos throughout the show. The soul tempo of the performances brought out bursts of spontaneous clapping and movement to the rock beat.

The 19-year-old Miss Clark, of Washington, D.C., personalized her songs by frequently crossing the stage to sing directly to the Screaming Eagles crowded around.

Miss Clark, who won her title in the Miss Black America Beauty Pageant in New York, August, 1970, is the third holder of the Miss Black America crown and the second to entertain troops in Vietnam.

# Civil Affairs



BRRRUSH! - A group of school children participate in a fluoride treatment conducted in Bien Hoa Province. (USA PHOTO)

## Eagles aid nuns

101ST ABN DIV - A dilapidated, mud-splattered truck with two nuns and four children aboard rattled through the gate at Camp Hochmuth about 10 miles southeast of Hue and drew to a shaky halt in front of the headquarters of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

One of the nuns went inside to the Civil Affairs Office to seek aid and food for the 108 orphans at Tu Mau Orphanage in Phu Luong. The other nun remained in the truck with the children.

Sergeant First Class Huey Black, who works in the S-2 (Intelligence section for the brigade, was returning to headquarters when he noticed the children on the truck. He stopped and, in the course of conversation with the sister, learned of the plight of the orphanage. He immediately decided to do something for the kids.

Black spoke with a few people whom he knew would help, First Sergeant Phillip Griggs, Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Sergeant Bernie Constantin, who also works in the brigade S-2. In a short time Black and his friends had worked out both immediate and

long-range plane to aid the children.

Black and Griggs set about collecting money from donors of the 2nd Brigade. In only a few minutes they had \$56.00. With the money, they purchased \$31.00 worth of food and had the remaining \$25.00 converted to piasters for the orphanage, giving the food and money to the sisters.

Black's long-term goal for the orphanage is sponsorship by a non-profit organization which aids orphanages throughout the world. Through the program the orphans are adopted by families who contribute \$12.00 monthly to their support.

Griggs is planning to raise more voluntary funds periodically from the brigade headquarters personnel. Constantin has contacted several friends and agencies in his hometown to donate clothing for the children.



HELP - Col. L.S. Hollier presents a check for 358,000 piasters to a representative of the flood-stricken populace of Hoa Vang district. The money was donated by the men of the 1st Marine Division.

(USMC PHOTO By Sgt. W. Ash)

## Kids get dental care

1ST AVN BDE - A "National Children's Dental Health Week," dental hygiene instruction to elementary school teachers and the eventual distribution of 182,860 toothbrushes to elementary school children are the noted results of a recent civic actions program initiated by the 12th Combat Aviation Group (CAG).

Captain Michael Mullalley, former civic actions officer and now special projects officer for the preventive dentistry program of 12th CAG, said the program began as a provincial pilot project and mushroomed to include a large portion of Military Region 3.

He said the project was conceived last July and put into effect in mid-August. "During previous civic actions projects, we noticed the poor teeth of many children in villages we assisted."

"We had, from the beginning, incorporated a dental civic action program (DENTCAP) into our activity. Our efforts in this area were directed toward extracting badly decayed teeth to immediately relieve intense pain. Due to limited time and the large numbers of people visited, we could do little more," he explained.

It was through contact with the DENTCAP programs and observing the poor condition of so many teeth that the 12th Aviation Group team decided to form a program which might result in preventing or retarding tooth decay in early stages. A dental hygiene program began to evolve.

Mullalley explained that the team's first concern was to make the children aware of the importance of dental hygiene. "We thought that the distribution of toothbrushes and instructional packets on proper brushing techniques would be one way of accomplishing this objective."

"We researched the idea thoroughly before we took any action. I was particularly interested in determining if similar programs had been conducted and if they had been successful."

Mullalley said that after his team decided to go with the project, there were many obstacles to overcome. "For one thing, we had to come up with toothbrushes."

"Our first idea was to buy them; however, our budget wouldn't allow us to do that. We were then informed that we might be able to use toothbrushes distributed for fluoride treatments at the replacement battalions."

The replacement battalions at Long Binh and Cam Ranh Bay were contacted and they agreed to supply excess toothbrushes to the program until other sources could be obtained.

Bien Hoa Province was picked as the project area for distribution. The Province Medical Chief and the Director of Elementary Education were contacted and assisted in the preparation and directed the execution of the program.

Civic actions teams from the 12th CAG and subordinate battalions then visited the various schools in the Province distributing the toothbrushes and educational material. Distribution was made to school administrators and teachers who in turn distributed them to the individual children.

It was decided that the teachers of elementary classes could be most effective in the instruction of dental hygiene and the 12th CAG civic action officer promptly solicited their help.

Mullalley called on Lieutenant Colonel Joseph L. Konzelman, USARV preventive dentistry officer for aid. Konzelman was aware of the group's efforts in dental hygiene programs and had been instrumental in obtaining toothbrushes from

replacement battalions.

Together they contacted province medical chiefs and directors of elementary education for Bien Hoa, Tay Ninh and Bien Duong provinces. Arrangements were made for dental hygiene presentations to teachers conferences. The teachers were briefed on the program, distributed educational packets and teaching plans to be utilized in their classrooms, and were asked to participate in a fluoride treatment.

The teachers were informed that they would be receiving toothbrushes to be distributed to their classes. Rather than use Americans to brief the elementary teachers, Mullalley and Konzelman enlisted the aid of Dr. Nghiem Thi Hoa of the Ministry of Health and one of two Doctors of Dental Science in Vietnam.

12th CAG provided transportation for Dr. Hoa and her staff as they visited 13 teachers conferences and briefed 3500 elementary school teachers during the most recent phase of the program.

Mullalley is optimistic about the eventual results of the teacher conference briefings. "The teachers were interested in our program and I believe they will distribute the toothbrushes we give them and will insure the students use them frequently and properly. We have had reports of teachers assigning brushes to students and teaching dental hygiene by having the children brush their teeth in class."

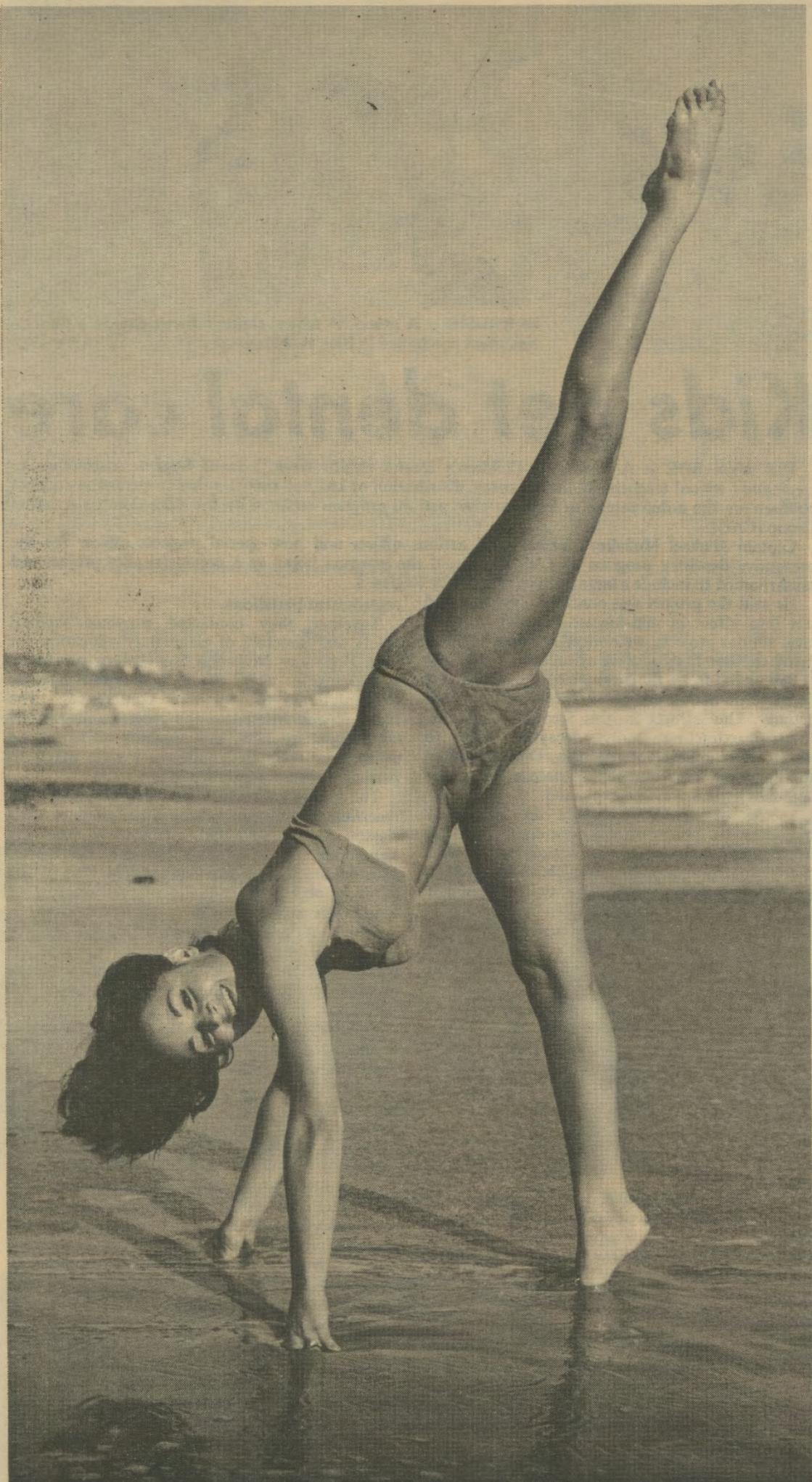
In addition to the distribution of toothbrushes and promoting dental hygiene programs in the elementary schools, Mullalley and Konzelman have initiated programs to promote increased awareness of dental hygiene among the Vietnamese populace. One such program was the National Children's Dental Health Week, 14 through 19 December, proclaimed by the Ministry of Health.

News articles, radio and television programs and lectures for group presentation were prepared and delivered; posters and dental health leaflets were distributed and banners were displayed in the streets of Saigon. Placing increased emphasis on the preventive dentistry program, 12th CAG recently expanded its civic actions program to include the special project position manned by Mullalley.

Both Mullalley and officers of the 12th CAG headquarters feel that even though the preventive dentistry program has achieved outstanding results, only the surface has been scratched in the area of preventive dentistry programs for the people of Vietnam.

Mullalley explains that he is presently concerned with completing most recent phase of his program, but feels that future projects will undoubtedly overshadow what has been accomplished thus far.

# Entertainment



## BUNKER BUNNY SEZ,

"Hey fellas do you have some problem I can help you with? I've heard that too many GIs in Vietnam send their problems and questions to Congressmen when they could more easily be solved by their unit commander or local IG. This is a drain on the tax dollar and not necessary in most cases. So check your unit commander and IG before calling on your Congressman. Oh, and don't forget me, I can straighten out some of your problems."

## VIEW FROM THE GREEN

By Sp5 Larry Green

Bob Short, owner of the Washington Senators, has bought just about all the controversy a club can stand in a desperate effort to entice fans to the Senator's games. In the face of dwindling gate receipts he is gambling on high priced stars to save the Senators.

This winter he dealt four players including his shortstop and third baseman (Ed Brinkman and Aurelio Rodriguez) to Detroit for brash Denny McLain, Don Wert, Elliot Maddox and Norm McRae leaving manager Ted Williams wondering who is going to play shortstop.

McLain has not been renowned for his mature acts on or off the field and caused much dissension among his ex-Tiger teammates. After last season's humiliation McLain will have to prove himself on the diamond, too. Is he the same pitcher who won 31 games in 1968? Has he gained any personal insights to help him transcend his emotional adolescence? Williams, after talking to Denny, is reserving judgement. "I've never met a guy more determined to turn things around," he observed.

Another guy determined to turn things around is Curt Flood, the gifted center fielder who grabbed the baseball establishment by the throat and tried to judicially strangle the reserve clause and make himself a free agent. When his suit against baseball failed, Flood, a talented portrait artist, spent the season in Europe painting. However, he missed baseball and was saved from becoming a highly paid slave again by consummating a gentleman's agreement with Short that makes him a free agent.

So Robert Short has accomplished bold changes in a desperate effort to make his team a viable enterprise. The Senators dropped off 93,000 fans at the gate last season from 918,106 to 824,789. They still outdrew Oakland, Kansas City, Cleveland, and Chicago in the American League. However, from a financial viewpoint this is worse than it sounds. The Senator's bills are mounting and Short's credit has stretched about as far as it can go. He has two new \$100,000 salaries to pay-McLain's and Flood's in addition to slugger Frank Howard's.

This will be the turning point for baseball in Washington D.C. It remains to be seen how long Short's end of the stick will be but a lot is riding on the performances of Denny McLain, Frank Howard and Curt Flood.

1. Jack Dempsey

BOXING

3. Jack Johnson

MATCH

4. John L. Sullivan

5. Max Baer

A. This Irish brawler from Boston was as well known for his drinking exploits as for his boxing. In his greatest fight he outlasted Jake Kilrain in a two hour 16 minute 75 round donnybrook.

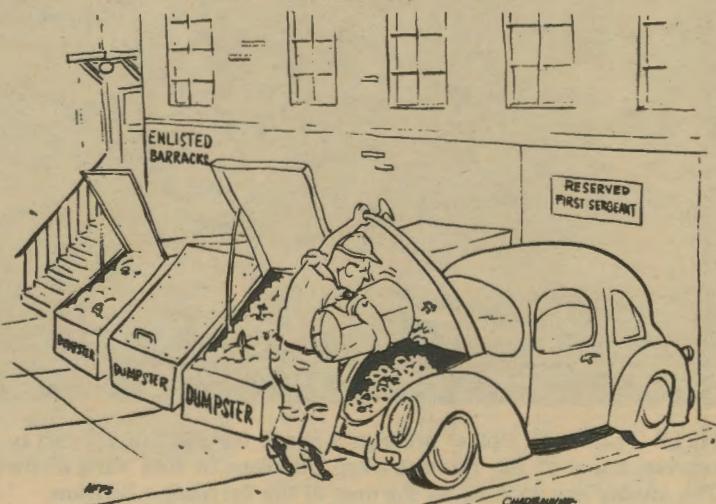
B. Known as the Manassa Mauler he ruled the heavyweight ranks from 1919 to 1926. He gained his first championship by flooring Jess Willard seven times in four rounds.

C. Reputed to possess the hardest right hand in heavyweight history, this zany, likeable character clowned his way to the heavyweight title in 1943 by flooring Primo Carnera 11 times in 11 rounds.

D. He was the first black heavyweight champion and won almost 400 fights while suffering only seven defeats in a career lasting from 1896 to 1928.

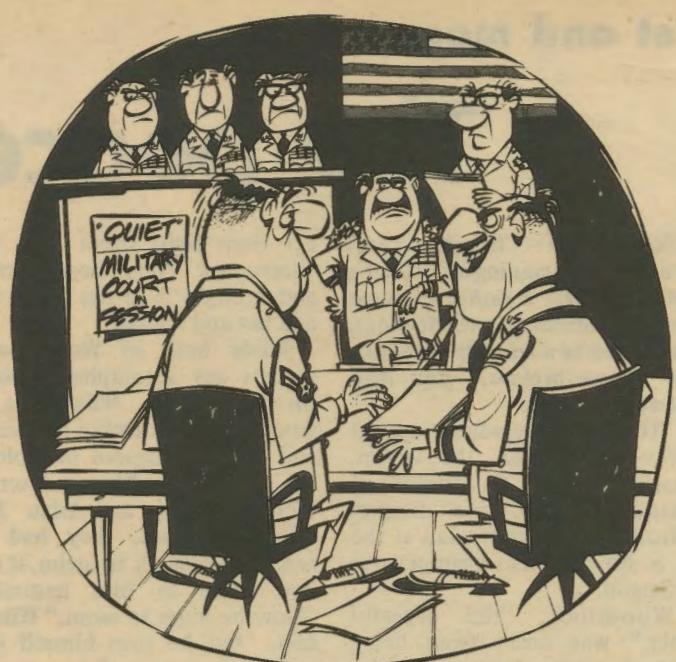
E. The "Brown Bomber" was a quiet, popular champion who had a knockout punch in either fist.

ANSWERS: 1. B 2. E 3. D 4. A 5. C



## Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



"Nothin' to worry about; it's your word against his!"

AIRMAN

## Blondie

By Chic Young



"That'll give you some idea of the protection your helmet provides."

ARMY DIGEST

# .... every night at the movies

MARCH 7-13	SUN (7)	MON (8)	TUES (9)	WED (10)	THURS (11)	FRI (12)	SAT (13)
TAN SON NHUT No1	Dirty Dingus Magee		Brotherly Love	Death Rides A Horse		Darker Than Amber	Murder For Sale
MACV ANNEX	The Graduate		Tarzan's Deadly Silence	Dirty Dingus Magee	Brotherly Love	Death Rides A Horse	
MACV COMPOUND	The Liberation Of L.B. Jones	The Great Bank Robbery	The Graduate	Tarzan's Deadly Silence	Dirty Dingus Magee		
TAN SON NHUT No2	Airport		The Liberation Of L.B. Jones	The Great Bank Robbery	The Graduate		Tarzan's Deadly Silence
BIEN HOA AB	The Landlord		Support Your Local Sheriff		Airport		The Liberation Of L.B. Jones
DA NANG AB No1	Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon		Hail, Hero	Hornet's Nest	The Grasshopper		Ned Kelly
DA NANG AB No2	The Boys In The Band	The Chairman	Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon	Hail, Hero	Hornet's Nest		
FREEDOM HILL	The Adventurers		The Boys In The Band	The Chairman	Tell Me That You Love Me Junie Moon	Hail, Hero	
PHU CAT	WUSA		My Lover, My Son	The Bridge At Remagen	West Side Story		Tarzan's Jungle Rebellion
TUY HOA AB	Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid		Watermelon Man	Then Came Bronson	The Best House In London		Johnny Cash
CAM RANH BAY	Cotton Comes To Harlem		The Honeymoon Killers	My Sweet Charlie	W.D. The Love Bug		Land Raiders
PHAN RANG	Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice		Where It's At	Heaven With A Gun	Ben-Hur		The Bushbaby
CAN THO	Too Late The Hero		The Fox	The First Time	The Moonshine War		Let It Be
VUNG TAU	Hello, Dolly		Death Of A Gunfighter	The Comic	Z		Dracula Has Risen From The Grave

COURTESY A & AF MOTION PICTURE SERVICE (PACIFIC)

# The peaceful otter

**NAVFORV** — Chewing up and in other ways ruining an officer's hat may seem a rather extreme way of expressing one's feelings, but if you're a friendly otter not yet "house-broken," you may get away with it.

"He's just prejudiced against officers," explains the victim, Ensign Russell G. Smith of Charleroi, Penn., the division officer for the photo lab at the U. S. Naval Forces headquarters in Saigon.

Woodstock, "the peaceful otter," was saved from being part of a stew last month by Petty Officer Third Class Ralph L. Ciriack of Hurst, Texas, and Petty Officer Second Class George N. Wilson of San Diego, Calif.

They bought the otter for 3,000 piastras (just over \$10) at the old Saigon marketplace on

Lo Ham Nghi street near the Vietnamese Navy headquarters and brought it to the photo lab as a pet and mascot.

While both of Woodstock's owners are accomplished Navy photographers, Wilson is a student of veterinarian medicine, and Ciriack majored in biology in college. They describe Woodstock as an Asian Sea Otter. However, they had to teach Woodstock to swim, it did not come to him naturally. "Now he loves to swim," Wilson said, "but he tires himself out and we have to pull him out of the water to keep him from drowning."

Feeding Woodstock has presented few problems. "His diet consists of small aquatic animals and insects, including fish, shrimp, clams and a special formula derived from a

professional veterinary manual," said Ciriack.

"Woodstock was about four inches long when we first got him," Wilson said, "but in one short month he's grown to an overall length of 16 inches and weighs about two pounds."

The otter is most active in the morning and evening hours, naps in the sun during the afternoon and sleeps all night. Woodstock usually sleeps on his back. He slips under a paper towel as if it were a sheet, pokes his head out and often uses his paws as a pillow.

Wilson and Ciriack are now looking for a female otter to serve as a companion and mate for Woodstock, and plan to take the otters back to the United States with them for breeding purposes.

Their division officer, Ensign Smith, said, "Woodstock is a definite boost to morale here and is a lively diversion. He helps bring the people of differing opinions together here in a way much like the peaceful theme of the Woodstock music festival last year. I think everyone should have one — it's nice to have him around."

Ensign Smith, who is tired of buying hats, just wishes Woodstock would like officers.



Woodstock, "the peaceful otter," nestles in the helping hands of his benefactors, Petty Officer Second Class George N. Wilson (left) and Petty Officer Third Class Ralph L. Ciriack.

(USN PHOTO)

## Coffee break Up on wheels

**7TH AF** — It's the only bright orange, siren-sounding truck in the Air Force and it's that way for a very good reason. It wants to get your attention when it stops for breakfast.

The truck is "Delta Diner Mobile One" and it is operated by Binh Thuy Air Base's food service office as an extension of the main dining hall, which is called — you guessed it — the Delta Diner.

By flashing your meal card or by plunking down 25 cents you can have two hot sweet rolls, two hard-boiled eggs, two doughnuts, a hot cup of coffee, a cold glass of milk, a cold glass of juice, and fresh fruit of your choice. You can have it if you can carry it.

Delta Diner Mobile One is the brainstorm of Master Sergeant Thomas C. Sizer Jr. of Port Richey, Fla., food service superintendent of the 6255th Air Base Squadron's services section.

"Basically, the idea behind the truck is the idea of the American coffee break," Sizer said. "Right now, there is no place on base for a trooper to buy a cup of coffee and a roll. We're providing him with that place."

Sizer said providing U.S. military personnel with a morning coffee break is not the only reason for Mobile One.

"Many people don't like an early breakfast. A lot of guys prefer to eat later in the morning. Also, we have a lot of people on Binh Thuy working odd shifts. Sometimes they can't make it to the dining hall before our breakfast line closes."

Mobile One began service at Binh Thuy Nov. 23.

Sizer said initial acceptance has been far beyond expectations. The truck leaves the main dining hall at 8 a.m. each morning for its approximate two-hour run. On board are a cashier and the driver who doubles as server. The truck serves an average of 100 customers each day along its 12 stops.

"We're getting more customers every day and adding more stops each week as the word spreads," Sizer said. "We even have some people flag us down for a cup of coffee. If we get flagged down enough times at a particular spot, it becomes a regular stop."

All of the food carried by Mobile One is prepared fresh daily by the dining hall's morning shift. "We do all of our own baking," Sizer said. "Most of the time the pastry is still hot through the first couple of stops."

From: *Mail The Observer Home*

Stamp

12 cent First Class  
20 cents Air Mail

To:

\*does not meet requirements for free mail

## Grunt of the week

**23RD INF DIV** — A new infantryman leaves the field each week and is escorted into his room here on Hawk Hill, headquarters for the 196th Infantry Brigade. Setting his rucksack aside, the new occupant looks over the room's furnishings which include a soft bed, refrigerator, telephone, desk and tile floor.

For the next seven days this trooper will live and learn in a world far different from the one commonly expected of a soldier with a trained skill of a combat infantryman.

"Each week we ask for an outstanding

## Boobytraps

**101ST ABN DIV** — While moving to higher ground, Screaming Eagles of Company D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, discovered 28 boobytraps on deserted Firebase Kathryn, about 17 miles west of Hue.

Most of the boobytraps consisted of Chinese Communist (Chicom) claymore mines and 60mm mortar rounds.

As the Screaming Eagles approached the firebase, the search began for boobytraps. The first boobytrap was discovered by the pointman, Private First Class Dillie Campbell of Dayton, Ohio. "I was leading the platoon up the firebase's main service road when I glanced over at the mess hall door and saw a 60mm mortar round," said Campbell. "A canteen was covering the round, but it fell away. A tripwire was several feet in front of me."

Campbell notified First Lieutenant Raymond Bailey of Cincinnati, platoon leader, of the find. He in turn ordered everyone to freeze and look around them for more boobytraps. A search of the area, in widely dispersed teams of two and four men each, was conducted.

Between 9:50 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. the Screaming Eagles had located 14 of the deadly enemy explosives. Later that day, one boobytrap was found on the service road at the opposite end of the firebase. It consisted of a Chicom claymore buried in the center of the road.

As the daylight began to fade, the Screaming Eagles left the firebase and spent the night at the base of the hill. The next day they returned to the abandoned hill and found 10 more 60mm mortar rounds rigged for detonation and placed on highly traveled routes.

Individuals qualifying for this "Grunt of the Week" status must be an E-4 or below, with a minimum of three months in country and a maximum of nine months, and he must be part of a rifle or reconnaissance platoon.

"Obviously, this is a good way to get a rest from the field," exclaimed Private First Class Randall L. Rotman of Ft. Lauderdale, a machine gunner for 1st Platoon of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, and the man chosen recently as the first "Grunt of the Week."

"At the same time, I'm learning what goes on where the decisions are made," continued Rotman. "By going to the Colonel's briefings, visiting firebases with him, and attending field briefings, I can tell what's happening from planning stages to execution."

Tracey pointed out that one purpose of the program is to provide a means for closer communications between the field soldier and the "brass."

Hathaway agreed. "This program is more of a benefit to me than for the individual selected," explained the commanding officer for the 196th, "because it gives me a chance to talk in some length with a member of either a rifle or a recon platoon. I usually don't have time to converse with them and find out their problems as I would like."

Each week's winner will be chosen on a rotating basis from 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry; 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry; and 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. After complete rotation, the system begins again.

Selection of the "Grunt of the Week" is determined by the individual battalion. The man chosen is also recommended to receive an Army Commendation Medal for Achievement.